

ATAP

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

*Partners in Removing Barriers and
Improving Access to Assistive Technology*

WHAT WE DO...

ATAP accomplishments

The Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) is a statewide project funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. This statewide program works to reduce or eliminate barriers that impede access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities of all ages. Our project focuses its efforts on changing systems, such as education, vocational rehabilitation, medical assistance and others that deliver services to individuals with disabilities. The following are Rhode Island's accomplishments:

PROVIDING RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Information Hotline: 1.800.916.8324 [TECH] or 401.463.0202 (V/TTY)

Website: www.atap.state.ri.us

Publications:

- ▲ Consumer Brochure
- ▲ Guide to Purchasing Hearing Aids in RI
- ▲ Parent's Guide to Assistive Technology
- ▲ TechACCESSORY newsletter
- ▲ Assistive Technology Funding Fact Sheets

Workshops and Training:

- ▲ Self-advocacy and assistive technology for individuals and families
- ▲ Information and training for senior citizens on low-tech, low-cost assistive technology to assist in daily living
- ▲ Training and awareness sessions for educators and parents on role of assistive technology in education
- ▲ Assistive technology equipment demonstrations and referrals to service providers and vendors
- ▲ Annual assistive technology conference

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

ATAP worked with an active consumer council and other key advocacy groups on legislation to protect consumers:

- PASSED: First in the national legislation requiring statewide availability of Braille and tactile ballots in all elections
- PASSED: Comprehensive lemon law for assistive technology that includes hearing aids
- PASSED: Law requiring that a consumer who uses hearing aids sit on the Hearing Aid Licensing Board
- PASSED: Legislation that allows purchasers of Hearing Aids to try out the technology for 30 days and receive a full refund if not appropriate for their needs.

WHAT WE DO...ATAP *accomplishments* (continued)

IMPROVING ACCESS

- ▲ ATAP is working to increase availability to recycled and used equipment.
- ▲ ATAP is working with state agencies to reduce the time it takes to obtain necessary technology.
- ▲ ATAP is developing on-going partnerships with cultural organizations and consumer organizations to spread the word about available technology.
- ▲ ATAP is advocating on behalf of individuals to help them obtain appropriate AT from publicly funded programs.

REMOVING BARRIERS

In education:

- ▲ ATAP is working with transition programs to make technology more accessible to young people moving from high school to adult life.
- ▲ ATAP is providing information and resources to schools to ensure that assistive technology is considered in student's individualized education plans.
- ▲ ATAP is working with early intervention programs to improve access to technology for children under three years old.

In employment:

- ▲ ATAP is working with state agencies to ensure the consideration of assistive technology in all phases of the vocational rehabilitation process.
- ▲ ATAP is working to increase employment opportunities by raising awareness of assistive technology among the business community.
- ▲ ATAP is working with the state workforce development system to ensure access and appropriate use of assistive technology by employers.

In funding:

- ▲ ATAP is working to make the approval process for technology more responsive for consumers.
- ▲ ATAP is collaborating with the Department of Elderly Affairs to help raise awareness of ways senior citizens can obtain funding for assistive technology.
- ▲ ATAP is working with state agencies through cooperative agreements related to assistive technology.